Department of State

DECLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM

(816)

XR POL 13-2 VIETS
EDX 12 VIETS

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE E

Saigon 2862 8-11-67

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02862 01 OF 02 111325Z

41
ACTION EA 19

INFO AID 36 SAH 02 SAL 01 RSR 01 GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02
NSC 10 NSA 02 L 03 INR 07 F 04 CIA 04 DOD 01 SP 02 SS 35 /140 W

R 111210Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 2862

REFS: A) STATE 17008 B) SAIGON A-100 C) SAIGON A-104
D) SAIGON A-122

SUBJECT: CURRENT GVN-YOURTH RELATIONS

1. REPORTS CITED REF A SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. CURRENT GVN-YOURTH RELATIONS ARE NOT AS GOOD AS WE WOULD WISH. REFS B AND C DESCRIBE BACKGROUND OF PRESENT SITUATION. REF D CONTAINS LEADERSHIP AND YOURTH WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION OF POINTS RAISED REF A. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED REF A.

A. CAM LO PROJECT WAS SCUTTLED IN MID-JULY BY POLITICAL

(3)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 2862/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BUREAU OF YOURTH DEPARTMENT FOR REASONS STILL UNEXPLAINED BUT APPARENTLY POLITICAL. HOWEVER, PROJECT RESUMED AUGUST 7 WITHOUT YOURTH DEPARTMENT SUPPORT BUT WITH CONTINUED BACKING FROM SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AS WELL AS CORDS AND IVS. FULL REPORT ON CAM LO WILL FOLLOW BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

B. REASONS FOR JULY 13 POLICE RAID ON NATIONAL YOURTH COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS LIKEWISE NOT EXPLAINED, BUT PROBABLY POLITICAL. POLICE ARE TOUCHY ABOUT NYC EFFORTS TO FORM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDS/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Bowler DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02862 01 OF 02 11:32EZ

ORGANIZATION TO CONTROL AND MONITOR ELECTIONS, PROBABLY BECAUSE THESE EFFORTS IMPLY SKEPTICISM OF GVN'S OWN HONESTY IN ELECTION ORGANIZATION. NEW EVIDENCE OF VIET CONG EFFORTS TO PENETRATE SAIGON INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES ALSO CONCERN POLICE. RAID WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT PROPERTY DAMAGE OR ARRESTS AND PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE WITHDRAWN AFTER A FEW DAYS. NVC CONTINUES (SEE BELOW) WITH EFFORTS MONITOR ELECTION.

C. NATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE IS PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY AND NEVER HAS RECEIVED GVN SUPPORT. FOR NVS, MAIN GVN-RELATED PROBLEM IS THE DRAFT, WHICH CONSTANTLY DECIMATES

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 2862/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RANKS OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS. UNLIKE RD WORKERS (WHO PERFORM SIMILAR TASKS) NVS VOLUNTEERS DO NOT GET DRAFT DEFERMENTS. RECENTLY ANNOUNCED POLICY OF EXEMPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR SIX YEARS ON RD TEAMS LIKEWISE DOES NOT APPLY TO NVSERS.

D. SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM HAS BEEN HELD UP FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. APPARENTLY BECAUSE EDUCATION SECRETARY DR. NGUYEN VAN THO WANTED MORE GVN CONTROL OVER PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS. WE GOT THEM; FUNDS HAVE NOW BEEN APPROVED BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND BY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF BUDGET AND FOREIGN AID. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE THE FUNDS UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, HOWEVER.

2. SINCE REFS B AND C DRAFTED WE HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON SOME ASPECTS OF GVN-YOUTH RELATIONS:

A. YOUTH DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION STILL FIGHTING OVER ALLEGED GVN INTERFERENCE IN PRIVATE YOUTH GROUP AFFAIRS. ON AUGUST 3 THE VIETNAMESE BOY SCOUTS

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 2862/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ASSOCIATION, HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY YOUTH DEPARTMENT CABINET DIRECTOR HUYNH VAN DIEP AND EDUCATION SECRETARY THO, WITH-

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02862 01 OF 02 111325Z

DREW FROM NYC. NYC REACTED BY IMMEDIATELY INVITING GIRL GUIDES FACTION HEADED BY DR. PHAM THI THANH TO JOIN NYC DESPITE YOUTH DEPARTMENT NON-RECOGNITION OF ANY GIRL GUIDES LEADERSHIP AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF FACTION HEADED BY DR. THO'S WIFE.

B. FOURTH COMMITTEE TO BUKLD DEMOCRACY HAS APPROACHED SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH ITS PROPOSAL TO MONITOR ELECTIONS BUT DESPITE OUR URGING IT HAS NOT YET SOUGHT SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL AMONG CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, AND SEEMS PARTICULARLY RELUCTANT TO APPROACH THIEU-KY REPRESENTATIVES.

C. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT SAIGON STUDENT UNION AND VANH HANH STUDENT UNION REFUSED TO JOIN IN YCBD PLAN FOR MONITORING THE ELECTIONS BECUASE IT INCLUDES PROPOSAL TO "ENCOURAGE THE ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE" IN THE ELECTIONS, WHICH SSU AND VHSU REGARD AS HELPING TO

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 2682/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
LEGITIMIZE MILITARY RULE. STUDENT VIEW IS THAT ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT AND MUST BE FAIR, BUT IF THEY ARE NOT, STUDENTS WILL "PROTEST TO THE END" IN MANNER DEPENDING ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AT THE TIME. SOME STUDENT LEADERS MAY BE THICH TRI QUANG BACKERS WHILE OTHERS SHARE HIS SKEPTICAL VIEW OF CURRENT ELECTORAL PROCESS.

D. WE ALSO HAVE AN UNCONFIRMED [redacted] THAT GENERAL LOAN SUSPECTS AMERICANS OF WISHING TO USE STUDENTS AND YOUTH IN WAYS WHICH WILL HELP THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES. THIS WOULD TEND TO COMPLICATE GVN-YOURTH RELATIONS AND COULD POSE SOME DIFFICULTIES FOR YOUTH-US RELATIONS.

3. US MISSION LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH WORKING GROUP AGREES THAT GVN-YOUTH RELATIONS PROBABLY WILL REMAIN SENSITIVE THROUGH ELECTION PERIOD, ALTHOUGH BARRING SOME MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT WE DO NOT NOW SEE SIGNS OF DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE ELECTION. WE ARE URGING GVN AND YOUTH TO AVOID UNNECESSARY IRRITANTS. WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING FAVORABLE GVN RESPONSE TO NYC PLAN

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02862 01 OF 02 111325Z

FOR GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN AND MONITORING OF ELECTIONS.

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 2862/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WE THINK THIS NYC EFFORT MUST BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN FRAME-WORK OF EFFORTS GVN, ASSEMBLY, AND CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES, AND WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL GET OFF THE GROUND UNLESS GVN IMPROVES ITS OWN COORDINATION OF ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

9. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING WHAT CAMPAIGN PLATFORM YOUTH PLANKS WE MIGHT USEFULLY SUGGEST TO CANDIDATES. ONE ATTRACTIVE IDEA IS TO ENCOURAGE THE ORGANIZATION OF AN AUTONOMOUS PRIVATE FOUNDATION TO FUND PRIVATE YOUTH AND OTHER NATION-BUILDING PROJECTS.
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02862 02 OF 02 111307Z

41
ACTION EA 19

INFO AID 30,SAH 02,SAL 01,RSR 01,GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,
NSC 10,NSA 02,L 03,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,/140 W

R 111210Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4441

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 2862

5. IN LONG RUN GVN CAN WIN CONSIDERABLE YOUTH SUPPORT BY RESPECTING CONSTITUTION, PURSUING PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL PROGRAMS, ENCOURAGING CONSTRUCTIVE PRIVATE YOUTH INITIATIVES, AND RECRUITING ABLE YOUTH LEADERS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. YOUTH NAN IMPROVE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD IT BY ABANDONING ATTENTISM AND AUTOMATIC NEGATIVISM WHICH OFTEN CHARACTERIZES ITS REACTION TO GVN. AFTER ELECTIONS WE PLAN TO TALK WITH SELECTED GVN OFFICIALS AND YOUTH LEADERS ALONG THESE LINES. SPECIFICALLY WE WILL GENTLY ENCOURAGE REPLACEMENT OF YOUTH SECRETARY, WHEN TIME COMES, WITH MORE PROGRESSIVE, ENERGETIC, AND SYMPATHETIC FIGURE. WE WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD APPEAL

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 2862/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TO GVN DEPARTMENTS OTHER THAN YOUTH AND EDUCATION. CAM LO PROJECT, FOR EXAMPLE, FOSTERED COOPERATION BETWEEN YOUTH AND SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES; WE ARE ALSO HELPING TO PUTY YOUTH IN TOUCH WITH RD TRAINING CENTER.

GP-3. BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED